

# Burnt Tree Primary School

## Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy

The Education Act 1996 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000 set out the requirements for sex education in maintained schools.

These are:

- Sex education must be given in such a manner as to "encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life"
- Headteachers and governing bodies must have regard to the secretary of state's guidance on sex and relationship education (SRE)
- Schools must have an up-to-date written policy on sex education
- Parents must be able to remove pupils from the non-statutory elements of sex education

The school's sex education policy is based on the DfE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care'. Sex Education is 'taught' under the umbrella title of 'Growth and Development' which forms part of the Science Curriculum. It is also part of the, personal, social and health education curriculum.

Staff, Governors and parents at Burnt Tree believe that SRE should be part of a broader Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship programme designed to develop pupil' self esteem and sense of responsibility towards others.

### **Aims and Objectives of the SRE Policy**

We aim to provide a graduated, age-appropriate SRE programme emphasising the social and emotional aspects of relationships.

Education about relationships for 3-7 year olds will focus on the building of self-esteem by encouraging learners to:

- value themselves
- recognise and communicate their feelings
- form friendships and relationships

SRE should help 7-11 year olds to understand:

- the reasons for the physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty.
- the range of their own and others' feelings and emotions
- the importance of personal safety and what to do or to whom to go when feeling unsafe

**We will ensure that pupils:**

- develop sensitivity towards the needs of others
- provide knowledge of loving relationships

- promote honesty and loyalty in relationships
- promote the importance of family life and stable relationships for bringing up children
- teach the fundamentals of human reproduction
- inform children on matters of person hygiene and related health issues
- educate against discrimination and prejudice
- empower children to make informed choices about relationships

### **Equal Opportunities**

In support of the Equal opportunities policy, all pupils will have the same opportunities to benefit from the SRE resources and teaching methods, regardless of age, ability, sex, religion or race.

### **Organisation of Sex and Relationships Education**

All class teachers will teach SRE. Other members of staff will answer direct questions and be aware of the SRE Policy.

### **Methodology and Approach**

There will be a whole school approach, from Reception to Year 6. The subject will be taught in a cross curricular way, encompassing elements with the National curriculum for example in the Key Stage (KS) 1 and 2 programmes of study for science, coming in force September 2014, pupils are expected to learn that humans produce offspring. *It adds that "they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs".* As well as expanding more broadly into human relationships and human and physical development and reproduction.

Teachers will answer children's direct questions in an open and factual way. Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

SRE may be taught in same sex groups when human reproduction is discussed. Children will know that they are free to question further and discuss issues with their own or another teacher.

### **EYFS**

Children learn about the concept of male and female and about young animals. In ongoing PSHE work, they develop skills to form friendships and think about relationships with others.

### **Key Stage 1**

Through work in science children learn about life cycles of some animals, understand the idea of growing from young to old and learn that all living things reproduce. They learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health. In RE and Citizenship children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved.

They begin to co-operate with others in work and play and begin to recognise the range of human emotions and ways to deal with them.

They also learn about personal safety.

## **Key Stage 2**

In science children build on their knowledge of life cycles and learn about the basic biology of human reproduction including birth of a baby on years 5 & 6.

Children are taught about the physical, emotional and social changes at puberty, which include personal hygiene. In RE and Citizenship, they continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family, between friends and the community and that there are different patterns of friendship. They will develop skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions and feelings. They will consider how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressures.

Sex and relationship education should focus on the development of skills and attitudes not just the acquisition of knowledge

### **Curriculum Entitlement**

Due to the cross curricular nature of the subject, it will be taught as and when it arises through normal topic work. In Year 6 pupils will participate in dedicated sessions with staff that they know well.

Children with special educational needs relating to SRE will have their needs addressed both within the class, and where appropriate, on a one- to- one basis.

### **Resources and Criteria Used for their Selection**

All resources will be chosen by the Curriculum Co-ordinator in consultation with staff and governors. External advice will be taken as appropriate (e.g. School nurse). Parents' comments will be taken into consideration.

### **Working with Parents**

Before agreement with the Governing Body this policy has been shared with a working group of parents who have agreed to read it and share their comments.

Parents are informed by letter of the programme of delivery for Sex Education and have the opportunity to view the resources before being used.

Parents are advised of their right to withdraw children from non-statutory SRE programmes, but are nevertheless encouraged to allow them to participate.

Parents are supplied with accompanying literature following programme delivery and offered support in their role as sex educators.

### **Child Protection / Confidentiality**

Teachers need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue.

The staff member will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the LEA procedures for child protection.

A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

### **Child Withdrawal Procedure**

There will be some occasions when health professionals (such as the School Health Nurse) will be invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher.

Notification will always be sent to parents in advance of such a lesson. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or any part of the Sex education provided, but not from teaching the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the National Curriculum Science.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson that child must stay in school and will be assigned to another class until the Sex Education lesson is over.

In order to minimise the number of withdrawals from Sex Education all parents will be invited into school to view and comment upon materials on an annual basis.

All SRE will be developmentally appropriate, taking into account the levels of maturity of individual children as well as the whole class.

Any other topics will be addressed openly and honestly, and in accordance with the philosophy, aims and objectives of the school, if children who are mature enough, genuinely ask about them.

<b>Signed by Chair of Governors</b>	Joyce Bitchenor
<b>Date</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
<b>Due For Review</b>	June 2015